

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended)) Apparatus for the alignment of a stack of sheets, in particular for the feeder of a printing machine, said apparatus comprising: at least one pair of trimming elements which can be adjusted at distances relative to each other in a preferably substantially continuous manner in order to accommodate and align the stack of sheets between said trimming elements, characterized in that said trimming elements ~~are~~ coupled with each other for counter-directional motion, so that an automatic stop means ~~for preventing an enlargement of the distance between the trimming elements, is provided and said stop means including a free-running free-wheel for an axle of a rotating non-driven positive-locking element, said positive-locking element including a gear rolling on a rack capable of being moved out of its positive-locked state in order to deactivate the stop means~~ so that this said stop means can be deactivated if required.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in ~~one of the previous~~ Claims 1, characterized in that wherein the trimming elements extend in a fence-like manner in upward direction.
6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in ~~one of the previous~~ Claims 5, characterized in that, wherein several pairs of trimming elements are provided.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in Claim 6, characterized in that  
wherein at least two pairs of said several pairs of trimming elements can  
be adjusted in orthogonal directions relative to each other.